GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:822
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2017
Water Level in Wells
Reddy Shri Midhun

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many wells especially in southern States including Andhra Pradesh are running dry because of intense heat, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the efforts of farmers to switch to crops that require less water haven't succeeded, if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the steps being taken to start water conservation projects in case there is shortage of water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year, on regional scale through a network of observation wells in the Country. Analysis of ground water level data of Pre-monsoon 2017 in the Southern States of the Country (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) indicates that major part of the Southern States shows water level in the depth range of 5-10 mbgl (Metre Below Ground Level). 42% wells analysed show water level of 5-10 mbgl, followed by 26% wells in 10-20 mbgl.

The depletion of ground water levels in the States is observed during the last decade is mainly due to increased extraction of ground water to meet the water demand and erratic rainfall resulting in drying of shallow wells. State-wise Decadal Water Level Fluctuation with Mean Pre-monsoon (2007 to 2016) and Pre-monsoon 2017 for Southern States are given at Annexure.

(b) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop under which efficient water application systems and various drought proofing interventions including micro-water harvesting and water conservation measures are promoted. Besides, under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), less water requiring crops like Millets and Pulses are being promoted.

(c) The TWAD Board, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken up stringent water conservation measures to augment the drinking water sources. So far, TWAD Board has constructed 12558 Recharge structures such as Check Dams, Percolation Ponds, Recharge Shaft and Ooranies etc. in close proximity to drinking water source. The study reveals that ground water level rise of 2 to 3m.
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The Government of Telangana has taken up water conservation measures by restoration, renovation and desilting of all MI tanks in the State in a phased manner under "Mission Kakatiya : progamme to improve the ground water levels". Further, the State Ground Water Department provides technical suggestion in respect of urban and rural rain water harvesting structures to the various executing agencies, whenever required. A recharge plan for 42 'Over-Exploited' Mandals have been prepared and forwarded to Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Irrigation & CAD for implementation in a massive way to improve ground water levels in the water scarcity areas of the State.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated water conservation activities in a mission mode, in an integrated and time bound approach under Neeru-Chettu Programme. In the last 2 years, the Government has desilted about 62.95 Crore Cubic meters from Tanks, constructed 54,628 Check dams, 4,629 Percolation tanks, 5,83,797 Form ponds, 58,136, Soil Moisture Conservation structures etc.

Besides, other steps taken by the Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL http://mowr.gov.in/writereaddata/GW_Depletion.pdf.

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ANNEXURE

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 822 to be answered on dated 20.07.2017 regarding "Water Level in Wells".

State-wise Decadal Water Level Fluctuation With Mean Pre-monsoon (2007 to 2016) and Pre-monsoon 2017

S.No.	Name of State	No. of wells Analysed	Rise		Fall		Wells showing no change	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	751	184	25	563	75	4	0.5
2	Goa	65	50	77	15	23	0	0.0
3	Karnataka	1421	423	30	985	69	13	0.9
4	Kerala	1366	405	30	957	70	4	0.3
5	Pondicherry	5	0	0	5	100	0	0.0
6	Tamil Nadu	536	71	13	465	87	0	0.0
7	Telangana	586	315	54	267	46	4	0.7
Total		4730	1448	30.6	3257	68.9	25	0.5